Batista Ex-Aide Killed by Bomb in Miami

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MIAMI, Oct. 31—Rolando Masferrer Rojas, the feared head of the secret police in pre-Castro Cuba, was killed today when a dynamite bomb exploded as he tried to start his car.

The bombing was the latest and most dramatic in a series of terrorist blasts in the Cuban community here in recent weeks. It is the first such blast to result in death.

There was fear in the Cuban community that Mr. Masferrer's death would trigger reprisals.

The 56-year-old associate of the former Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista was killed in the driveway of his home in the southwest section of the city as he turned on the ignition of his 1968 Ford Torino. The bomb exploded at 10:58 A.M.

The high-yield bomb, apparently planted last night, blew the roof from the car.

Mr. Masferrer's wife, Lucila, and daughter, Liludigia, were not in the house when the blast occurred.

Sought Law Degree

Mr. Masferrer who had been studying for an American law degree was threatened with death in an anonymous letter circulated in the Cuban exile community earlier this year. The letter accused him of being an extortionist and police informer who planned to turn in terrorist bombers secretly and then defend them in court.

Mr. Masferrer, who was editor of Libertad, a Spanish-language weekly newspaper in Miami, wrote an editorial a week ago praising terrorist bombers who opposed Premier Fidal Castro of Cuba.

"There's nothing that speaks more eloquently than dynamite in the four corners of the world," he wrote.

Through his newspaper, Mr. Masferrer feuded openly with other Cubans in the exile community whom he accused of abandoning the fight to free Cuba from Communism.

It was felt in the Cuban community that his terrorist past in Cuba and his disputes in Miami had led to his death.

Born in Cuba's Oriente Province in 1919, Mr. Masferrer attended school in Texas, fought with the Communists in Spain in the nineteen-thirties and rose to power in Cuba in the nineteen-forties with Carlos Prio Socarra and later with Batista.

Known as The Tiger under Batista, he formed a personal army and roamed the streets of Havana with a chauffeur and armed guards. Mutilations and wanton slayings were attributed to him, but he denied having any part in them.

Known to Have Enemies

MIAMI, Oct. 31 (UPI)—Mr. Masferrer was known to have several enemies in the large Cuban exile community here.

In the Batista regime, he was a Senator and newspaper publisher, but also headed his own private army, known as "Masferrer's Tigers," against Fidel Castro's rebel troops in Oriente Province. He fled the island when Mr. Castro gained power in 1959.

In 1969, Mr. Masferrer was convicted of unlawfully attempting to export arms, ammunition and implements of war in a planned 1967 invasion of Haiti from the Florida Coast. He dropped out of sight after his conviction, but began serving a three-year prison sentence in September, 1970 three months after he was required to report to the United States marshal.

Mr. Masferrer and the Haitian exile President Jean Baptiste planned to invade Haiti to overthrow the regime of Francois Duvalier and set up a base for anti-Castro strikes. The invasion force was nearly ready to leave Miami when the Federal authorities moved in.

Mr. Masferrer was the son of a colonel and grandson of a general. He was a magna cum laude graduate of Havana University. At the age of 23, he was the youngest Senator ever in the Cuban Parliament.